



***AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF THE BUSINESS PARK IN THE CITY OF
WHITEWATER, WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN***

MAY 2009

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS NO. 1766

SUBMITTED BY:

***PHILIP H. SALKIN
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102 E. PARK LANE
VERONA, WISCONSIN 53593***

PROJECT SUMMARY

Title: An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Expansion of the Business Park in the City of Whitewater, Walworth County, Wisconsin

I.D.: ACS 1766

Principal Investigator: Philip H. Salkin
Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc.
102 E. Park Lane
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

Project Personnel: Brett Hoffman
Tim Roberts
Michael Salkin

Contractor: Strand Associates, Inc.
910 W. Wingra Ave.
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

Methods: Literature and Records Search
Pedestrian Survey

Results of the Study:

No Native American artifacts were recovered. An isolated find (47WL296) of a Native American artifact may have been found in, or near the western edge of the project area. Euro-American materials were limited to surface finds of recent age, or items that are not temporally diagnostic. No evidence was found for 47WL297, reported as a complex of farm buildings. This site may be about 300 meters to the west, outside of the project area.

Recommendations:

No additional archaeological work is recommended in association with this project as no sites were encountered that might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Date of Fieldwork: May 10th and 12th, 2009
Date of Report : May 16th, 2009

Abstract

In May, 2009, personnel from Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey for the proposed extension of the business park in the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin. In the course of the survey, the project area, which lay in agricultural fields with good to excellent conditions for surface observation, was subjected to pedestrian walk-over. No Native American artifacts were recovered. An isolated find of an Early Archaic point may have been made in, or near the project area (47WL296) during a 1996 survey. Euro-American materials were restricted to items of recent age or that are not temporally diagnostic. No evidence was found for 47WL297, reported as a complex of farm buildings. No additional archaeological work is recommended in association with this project as no sites were found that might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

The General Area 2-4

The Project Area 5-7

Previously Reported Sites in and near the Project Area 8-10

Methods 10

Results of the Survey 10

Summation 10-11

Bibliography 12-13

Figures

Fig. 1 - The Location of the Project Area in Walworth County, Wisconsin 3

Fig. 2 - The Location of the Project Area in Walworth County 4

Fig. 3 - The Topography of the General Project Area 6

Fig. 4 - The Project Corridor 7

Introduction

In May 2009, personnel from Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey for the proposed extension of the business park in the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any archaeological resources might be impacted by the proposed development. The project area is approximately 32.3 hectares (80 acres) in size and is located in the SE1/4, NE1/4, the NE1/4, SW1/4, NE1/4, and portions of the NE1/4, SE1/4 and the SE1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 3, T4N, R15E.

The study was conducted by the author with the assistance of Brett Hoffman, Tim Roberts, and Michael Salkin of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. in Verona, Wisconsin. It was conducted for the firm of Strand Associates, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin and the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin.

The Area

The project area is located in the northwestern corner of Walworth County in the southeastern portion of Wisconsin (Figs. 1-2). This part of the state lies in the Eastern Ridges and Lowland Province, an area distinguished by its relatively level to rolling topography. The region is dominated by *cuestas*; ridges with steep escarpments on one side and long, gentle slopes on the other (Martin 1965: 212). The general area is underlain by dolomites, limestones and shales of the Sinnipee Formation (Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey 1981). This is covered by either glaciolacustrine deposits or ground moraines (Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey 1976).

Prior to the intensive Euro-American utilization of this area, the dominant vegetation cover was either oak-savannah or prairie. The former included upland stands of bur, white and black oak, with a mesic prairie understory and lowland stands of swamp white oak, with a wet, mesic prairie understory (Curtis 1959: 326). The latter included non-arboreal species of grasses (such as bluestem), forbs and some woody brush (*ibid*: 262). Finley (1976) shows the area as having the same mix of marsh and sedge meadows, but also some areas of marsh and sedge meadows, especially southeast of Whitewater.

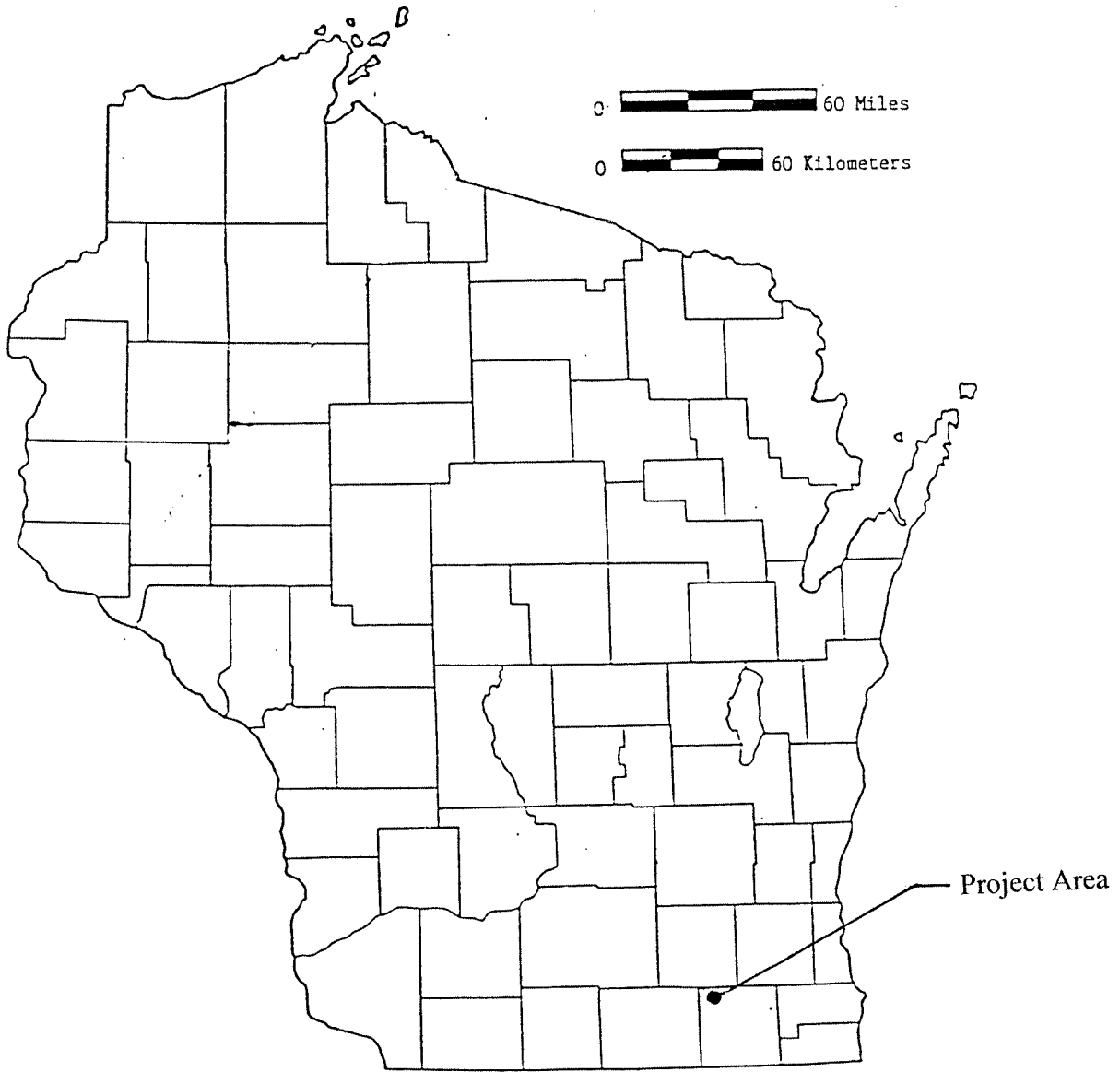
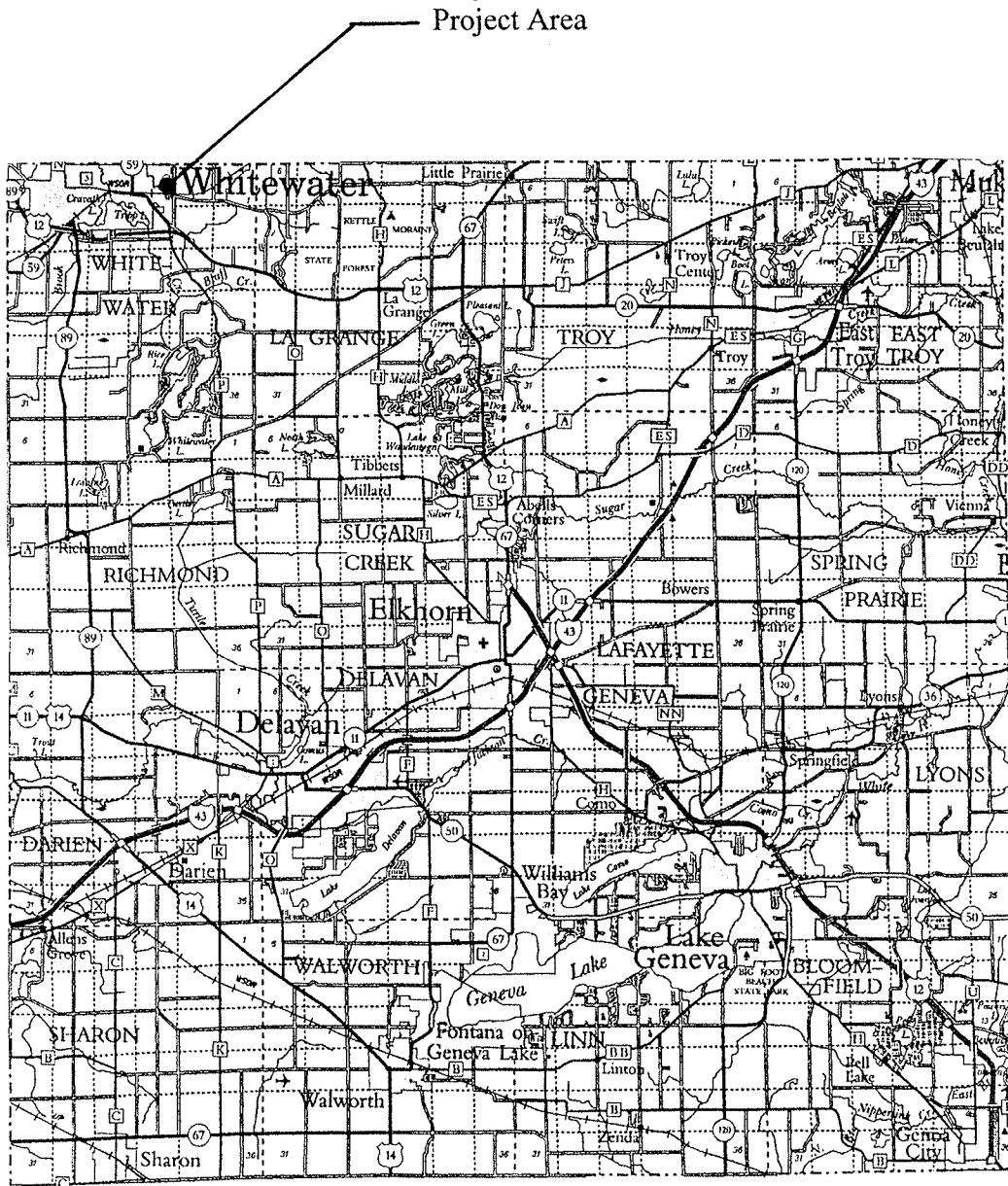


Fig. 1 - The Location of the Project Area in Walworth County, Wisconsin



**Fig. 2 - The Location of the Project area in Walworth County
(WisDOT Map)**

The Project Area

The project area is located on the eastern end of the City of Whitewater. It is bordered on the east by Howard Road and on the south by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific tracks. To the north is Corporate Drive (Fig. 3). The project area has a general slope downhill from the northeast to the southwest. Elevations fall from elevations of around 262 meters m.s.l. near the intersection of Howard Road and Corporate Drive down to around 250 meters m.s.l. to the east and southeast (Fig. 4).

At the time of the survey, the project area lay in a series of agricultural fields with good to excellent conditions for surface observation (50-90%+). The only exception was an area already developed for a detention pond.

The primary soils in the project area consist of the following:

Miami loam, sandy loam substratum, 2-6% slopes – well-drained soil found on till plains (Haszel 1971: 35-36)

Miami loam, sandy loam substratum, 6-12% slopes, eroded – well-drained soil found on till plains (ibid: 35-36)

Navan silt loam, 0-2% slopes – poorly drained soils in glacial lakebeds - lower portion of the project area (ibid: 38-39)

Hebron loam, 1-6% slopes – moderately well-drained soil found on glacial lakebeds – small portion of the project area (Haszel 1971: 25-26).

There are no major water resources at this time in the project area. There are several small, channelized streams and a marsh to the west. Tripp Lake is about 1.0km to the southwest.

47WL296?

6.

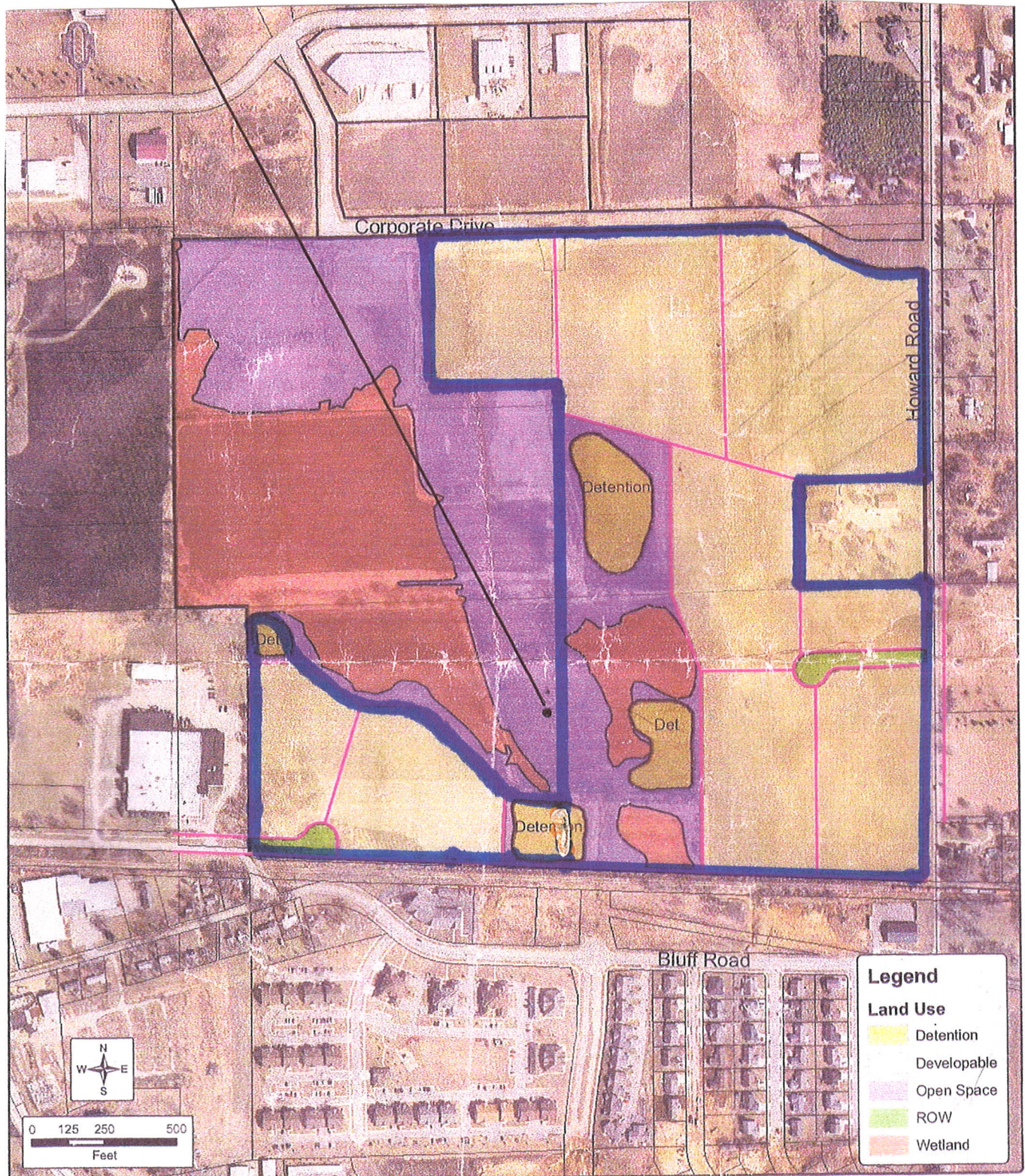
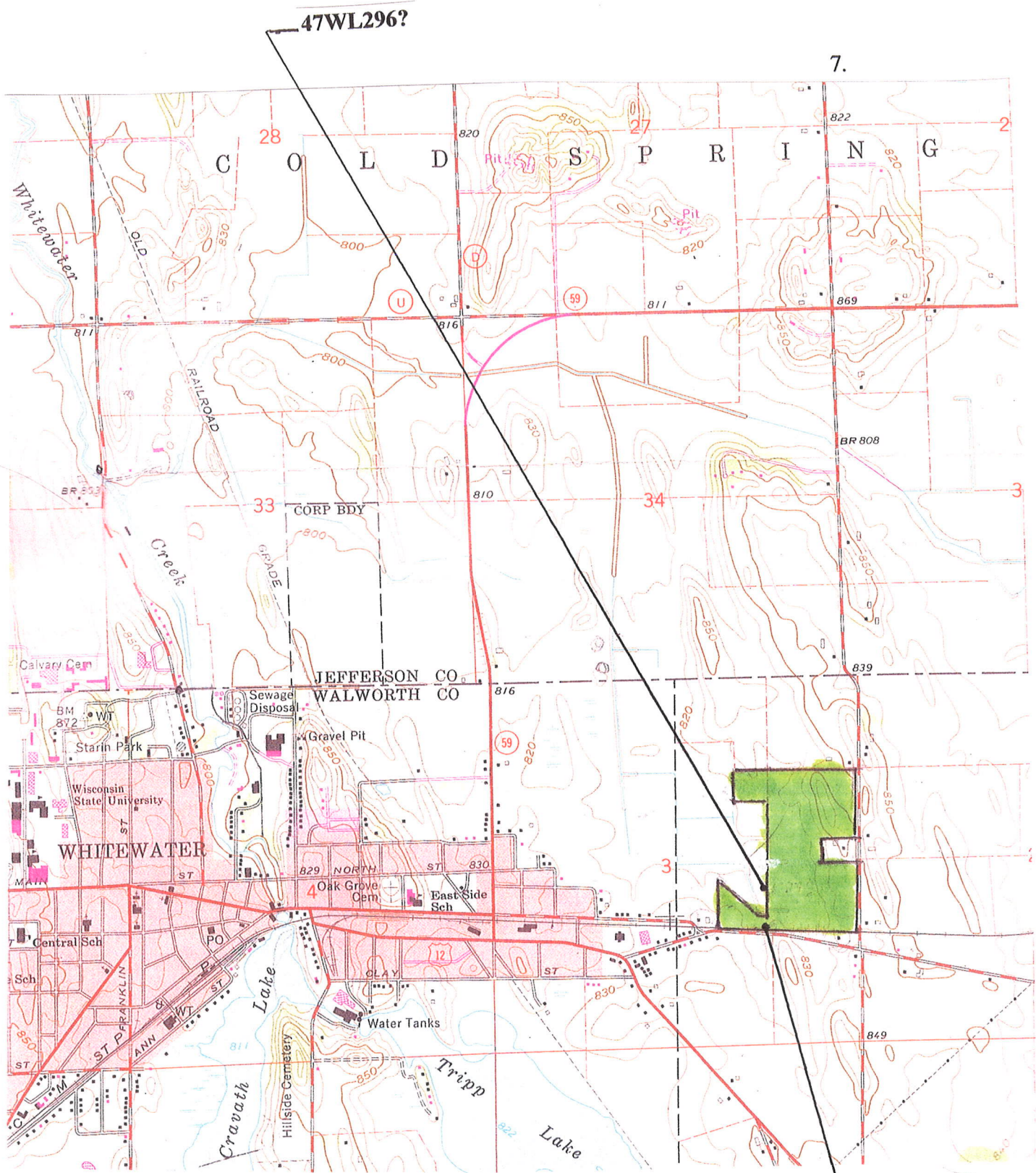


Fig. 3 – The Project Area (heavy blue line)



**Fig. 4 - The Topography of the General Project Area
Whitewater, Wis. Quad 1971
1:24,000**

47WL297?

Previously Reported Sites in and near the Project Area

Prior to the initiation of the fieldwork, a literature and records search was conducted on the previously reported sites in and near the project area. The following data sources were utilized:

Site files and archives of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division

Site files and archives of the Office of the State Archaeologist

Site files and archives of the Burial Sites Preservation Office

Site files and archives of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. (Salkin 1993)

Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscripts

National Register of Historic Places

Wisconsin Archeologist.

The literature and records search indicated that the following were the sites closest to the project area:

47Je972 – Lurvey Sod Farm #2 – Sec. 34, T5N, R15E – Euro-American artifact scatter – approx. 550 meters northwest of the project area

47Je970 – Lurvey Sod Farm #1 – Sec. 34, T5N, R15E – isolated find of a triangular arrowpoint – approx. 700 meters northwest of the project area

47WL274 – USH 12 Isolate #4 – Sec. 10, T4N, R15E – Sec. 10, T4N, R15E – isolated find of a Native American artifacts – approx. 1.43km south of the project area

47WL279 – Hunt Site – Sec. 10, T4N, R15E – scatter of 16 Native American artifacts – approx. 1.43km south of the project area

47WL271 – USH 12 Isolate #1 – Sec.10, T4N, R15E - isolated find of a Native American artifact – approx. 1.5km southwest of the project area

47WL272 – USH 12 Isolate #2 – Sec. 10, T4 N, R15E - isolated find of a Native American artifact – approx. 1.5km south of the project area.

The sites of most concern for the project are 47WL296 and 47WL297. The former was an isolated find of an Early Archaic point reported as in the SW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 3, T4N, R15E (Fig. 4), about 150 meters north of the railroad tracks and about 400 meters west of Howard Road. This would place it on the edge of the project area in a north-south corridor surveyed by personnel from G.L.A.R.C., Inc. in 1996 (Reports of Investigations #420). The latter was reported as a complex of farm buildings in the W1/2, SW1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 3, T4N, R15RE (Fig. 4), north of Bluff Road and railroad tracks and 400 meters west of Howard Road.

A problem with 47WL297 is that the buildings are not present. Nor do they appear on any plat of the area back to 1857, including the detailed Wisconsin Economic Inventory Map of 1936. The site might actually refer to structures located immediately north of Bluff Road and the tracks, but about 300 meters to the west. These buildings do appear on historic plats of the area. It may be asked whether if 47WL297 is actually located to the west, site 47WL296 might also have been located to the west. The area 400 meters west of Howard Road and 150 meters north of the track (the reported location of 47WL296) is in a low area with poorly drained soils, an unlikely (but possible) location of an archaeological site. A location about 300 meters to the west places it in a higher, drier location which is still on the edge of the project area. Unfortunately, a copy of the G.L.A.R.C., Inc. was not available for review when the author discussed with this staff from the Wisconsin Historical Society. It may be noted that there were some questions about the locations

of other sites reported in the survey that included 47WL296 and 47WL297.

In summation, it is not clear if any previously reported artifacts were found in the project area, if so, it was the isolated find of a spearpoint. There is no evidence that any historic Euro-American structures, or structural remains lie in the project area, despite the report of 47WL297.

Methods

As the project area lay in agricultural fields with good conditions for surface observation, pedestrian walk-over was the method used to assess its archaeological potential. This was done at 5 meter intervals.

Results of the Survey

No Native American artifacts were recovered in the course of the survey. This includes in the area in the vicinity of the reported find of the isolated artifact find (47WL296). Euro-American artifacts were limited to surface finds of recent age or those that were not temporally diagnostic. It was noted that there was some disturbance in the northeast section of the project area and where an detention pond had been created.

Summation and Recommendations

In May, 2009, personnel from Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey for the proposed extension of the business park in the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin. In the course of the survey, the project area, which lay in agricultural fields with

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Maps and Plats

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- 1930 - Atlas and Plat Book of Walworth County, Wisconsin - The Thrift Press - Rockford
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- 1947 - Ownership Plat Book of Walworth County, Wisconsin - Marathon Map Service - Milwaukee
- 1951 - Official County Plat Book and Farmer Directory of Walworth County, Wisconsin - Farm Plat Book Publishing Co. - Mankato

Additional Sources

Site files and archives of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division

Site files and archives of the Burial Sites Preservation Office

Site files and archives of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc.

National Register of Historic Places

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscripts

Wisconsin Archeologist

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

WHS/SHSW # _____ COUNTY Walworth

AUTHORS: Philip H. Salkin

REPORT TITLE: An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Expansion of the Business Park in the City of Whitewater, Walworth County, Wisconsin

DATE OF REPORT (MONTH AND YEAR): 5/09

SERIES/NUMBER: ACS 1766

PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Verona, Wisconsin

LOCATIONAL INFORMATION [LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY AREA (T-R-S)]
T4N, R15E, Sec. 3

U.S.G.S. QUAD MAP(S): Whitewater, Wi.

SITE(S) INVESTIGATED: The vicinity of 47WL296 and 47WL297 was investigated but there is question as to whether these sites were reported in the correct locations.

ACRES INVESTIGATED: approx. 80 acres

AGENCY # EDA

INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES COMPLETED (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avocational Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Chance Encounter | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled Surface Collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faunal Analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview/Informant | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use History |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature Background Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Stripping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Osteological Analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> Phase I-Surface Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phase II | <input type="checkbox"/> Phase II-Corridor Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Phase III |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phase III-Corridor Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Records/Background | <input type="checkbox"/> Records/Background (Pred. Model) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Sensing | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel Testing/Probing (Inten) | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Survey (Intensive) | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walk Over (Reconnaissance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | |

ABSTRACT: Included in report Written in space below

Wisconsin ASI Update Form

Fill in the following information as it is presently recorded: County _____

Site # 47WL296 and 47WL297

ASI # _____

Burial Site # _____

Site Name 47WL296 – KF Bluff Road Isolated Find
47WL297 – Bluff Road Farm

Town/Range/Sec. T5N, R14E, Sec. 3

USGS Quad Name Whitewater, Wisconsin

Please refer to the ASI form and provide the appropriate headings for the correction or new information. Examples of headings are: QUARTER SECTIONS, USGS MAP, and SITE DESCRIPTION. Provide a justification or reference for any new information. When appropriate, attach a sketch map and copy of USGS quad depicting map changes.

HEADING(S) AND NATURE OF CORRECTION/UPDATE:

The KF Bluff Road Isolate was reported in a location that placed it very close to the western border of a project area investigated by the author in May, 2009. It was reported in the SW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 3, T4N, R15E. As discussed in the author's report, there is some question as to whether the site was actually located about 300 meters further to the west, still in proximity to the project area. No other artifacts were located either in the location of the site as reported, or in the potential location to the west.

The Bluff Road Farm was reported as a complex of farm buildings in the W1/2, SW1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 3, T4N, R15E. The survey conducted by the author in May, 2009 yielded no evidence for the buildings. The City Engineer for Whitewater was not familiar with the buildings and they do not appear on any plats of the area dating back to 1857. It is likely that this site relates to buildings located about 300 meters to the west.

Investigator Philip H. Salkin Affiliation ACS, Inc. Date 5/15/09

Update submitted by:

Name Philip H. Salkin Affiliation ACS, Inc. Date 5/17/09

(Leave this section blank-- for SHSW office use) HP-00-000 (rev. --/--/2000)

CHK'D GIS Entry GIS Entry Checked ENTER _____

ENTRY CHK'D

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INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUES COMPLETED (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avocational Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Chance Encounter | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled Surface Collection |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature Background Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Stripping |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Survey (Intensive) | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walk Over (Reconnaissance) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | |

ABSTRACT: Included in report Written in space below